

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 151045Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2626

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS NIAMEY 0180

E.O. 11652: NA

TARQC PFOR, OUA, NG

SUBJECT:OAU ANGOLAN SUMMIT: COMMENTS OF SENGHOR, JAWARA AND
KOUNTCHE TO PRESS IN NIAMEY

1. RETURNING FROM OAU SUMMIT IN ADDID, KOUNCHE
AND ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENTS SENGHOR AND JAWARA
HEDL BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE UPON ARRIVAL IN NIAMEY
AIRPORT LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 13. ALL THREE
CHEIFS OF STATE EMPHASIZED THAT DESPITE CONFERENCE
STALEMATE, POSSIBILITY OF DIALOGUE STILL REMAINED AND
OAU WAS STILL INTACT. SEGHOR MADE POINT OF
COMMENDING KOUNTCHE FOR HIS ATTEMPTS TO MEDIATE
BETWEEN TWO OPPOSING BLOCS NOTING THESE EFFORTS HAD
RUN AFOUL OF IDEOLOGICAL CLEAVAGE BETWEEN PROGRESSIVES
AND MODERATES. IN HIS STATEMENT, KOUNCHE DEFENDED
NIGER'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA AS LAST MOMENT BEFORE
SUMMLY BUT WENT ON TO CONDEMN ALL FOREIGN INTER-
VENTION IN ANGOLA.

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2. KOUNCHE ACKNOWLEDGED SUMMIT'S FAILURE, BUT SAID THAT NIGER WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS AT CONCILIATION. HE SAID HE HAD GIVEN HIS SUPPORT TO COMMISSION WHICH BEING ASSIGNED TASK OF FINDING COMPROMISE SOLUTION. CONCERNING NIGER'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA, KOUNCHE TOLD THE PRESS HE HAD ALWAYS HOPED TO GUARD NIGER'S "ATTITUDE OF GENUINE OBJECTIVE NEUTRALITY, BUT SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION HAD FORCED HIS HAND. FOR THIS REASON HE WAS OBLIGED TO CONFIRM ON JANUARY 9 THAT HE HAD RECOGNIZED POPULAR GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. HE ADDED: "NOT ONLY IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE AT ISSUE IN THIS RECOGNITION,-- BECAUSE NIGER CONDEMNED AND ALWAYS WILL CONDEMN FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA--BUT WE WANTED GOVERNMENT WHICH WE HAD RECOGNIZED TO TAKE ITS PLACE AND WORK IN INTEREST OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE". TO SUPPORT OTHER SIDE, HE SAID WOULD BE TO BACK "SORDID INTERESTS OF SOME (FNLA AND UNITA) WHO MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WE ARE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH."

3. ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS OF NEW RECOGNITIONS OF MPLA, KOUNCHE RESPONDED OBLIQUELY BY REGRETTING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE MATTER AND URGING PROBLEM BE SETTLED IN A PURELY AFRICAN MANNER.

4. SENHOR SAW SPLIT AT CONFERENCE AS A STEP BACKWARDS WHICH RECALLED ANTAGONISM DIVIDING AFRICA BEFORE ESTABLISHMENT OF OAU. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT STALEMATE WAS ONLY TEMPORARY: "THE OAU HAS NOT BROKEN UP. WE HAVE SIMPLY ADJOURNED THE SESSION." SENHOR EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT OAU MEETING.

5. PRESIDENT JAWARA OF GAMBIA WAS ALSO CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR FUTURE COMPROMISE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OAU HAD FAILED IN SEARCH FOR IMMEDIATE SOLUTION SUCH AS A CEASE-FIRE, BUT EXPRESSED HOPE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND REFLECTING UNCLASSIFIED

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WISHES OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE. HECK

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